## **Short Encoding of Words** (View)

A **valid encoding** of an array of words is any reference string s and array of indices indices such that:

- words.length == indices.length
- The reference string s ends with the '#' character.
- For each index indices[i], the **substring** of s starting from indices[i] and up to (but not including) the next '#' character is equal to words[i].

Given an array of words, return the length of the shortest reference string s possible of any valid encoding of words.

## **Example 1:**

```
Input: words = ["time", "me", "bell"]
Output: 10
Explanation: A valid encoding would be s = "time#bell#" and indices = [0, 2, 5].
words[0] = "time", the substring of s starting from indices[0] = 0 to the next '#'
is underlined in "time#bell#"
words[1] = "me", the substring of s starting from indices[1] = 2 to the next '#'
is underlined in "time#bell#"
words[2] = "bell", the substring of s starting from indices[2] = 5 to the next '#'
is underlined in "time#bell#"
```

## **Example 2:**

```
Input: words = ["t"]
Output: 2
Explanation: A valid encoding would be s = "t#" and indices = [0].
```

## **Constraints:**

- 1 <= words.length <= 2000
- 1 <= words[i].length <= 7
- words[i] consists of only lowercase letters.